



GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

INFORMATION & IMMEDIATE EFFECTS

FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JIM COSTA

Representing California's 16th District

WILL I CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MY SOCIAL SECURITY AND SSI CHECKS?

Yes. Recipients will continue to receive their Social Security and SSI checks during a government shutdown. However, there is a suspension on issuing Social Security cards during a shutdown.

WILL MY MAIL STILL ARRIVE?

Yes. The approximately 500,000 Postal Service employees are exempt from furlough, and therefore can continue working, because the Postal Service is self-funded.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON VETERANS SERVICES?

During a government shutdown, all VA medical facilities and clinics will remain fully operational. However, VA call centers will be closed, VA telephone hotlines will not be answered, and the Veterans Benefits Administration public contact services are not available.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL?

The Defense Department issued guidance on Friday, January 19th saying that, in the event of a shutdown, "Military personnel on active duty, including reserve component personnel on federal active duty, will continue to report for duty and carry out assigned duties."

Regarding their pay, the *Washington Post* reports, "There would be no gap in their pay unless the shutdown lasted past February 1, and otherwise they would continue on the job without getting paid until the shutdown ended or until Congress and the President agreed to cover their costs before it ended. The last time the government shut down, in 2013, the military remained on the job and legislation to pay service members during the shutdown was signed by President Obama."

WHICH FEDERAL EMPLOYEES KEEP WORKING DURING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN?

When there is a government shutdown, federal agencies are required to classify their employees as either "essential" or "non-essential." The employees classified as "essential" continue to work during the shutdown, and employees classified as "non-essential" are put on unpaid furlough. In the 2013 16-day shutdown, about 800,000 of the 2.1 million civilian federal employees in the executive branch were classified as "non-essential" and furloughed.

DO FURLOUGHED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GET BACK PAY?

That is up to Congress and the President. The precedent has been that furloughed employees are later paid, through enactment of legislation. That was done in the most recent shutdown in 2013.

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO VISIT NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS?

During the 2013 16-day shutdown, national parks, national monuments, and the Smithsonian museums were closed. However, the Trump Administration has announced that it will work to keep national parks “as accessible as possible” in the event of a shutdown. Officials have said that the anticipated plan is to keep many national parks open for hiking, wildlife watching, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Open-air parks and monuments in Washington, D.C. will remain open. However, other services that require National Park Service staff, including campgrounds and concessions, will be closed.

HOW WILL THE SHUTDOWN AFFECT FEMA NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS?

It is unclear how ongoing FEMA recovery efforts in Texas, Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands from recent hurricanes and wildfires will be impacted. FEMA staff will still respond to emergencies, but the Trump Administration has not clarified how many workers, if any, will continue with long-term recovery projects.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES?

A shutdown halts federal loans to small businesses. During a shutdown, the Small Business Administration stops approving applications for small businesses to obtain loans and loan guarantees.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON FEDERAL HOUSING LOANS?

During a shutdown, the Federal Housing Administration stops approving applications for housing loans.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON FOOD SAFETY ACTIVITIES?

During a shutdown, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is unable to support the majority of its food safety activities.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL?

During a shutdown, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) must greatly curtail activities to conduct flu season surveillance and monitoring, promote immunization, support state and local health departments, and update disease treatment and prevention recommendations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices will remain open.
- Passports will continue to be issued by the State Department, but processing of applications may be delayed or halted in an extended shutdown or at certain locations.